DERECH HACHAIM SEMINARY

COMPLAINT POLICY

Internal Complaint Policy:

Complaints may be submitted in writing to the Dean or Program Director. Each complaint is thoroughly investigated, and the student is informed in writing within 30 days of the resolution of the complaint. No person directly involved in the complaint will formulate the final determination.

AIJS Complaint Procedure:

Complaints can be filed with the office of the AIJS using the contact information below.

Association of Institutions of Jewish Studies
500 West Kennedy Boulevard
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2620
732.363.7330
Email: cstern@theaijs.com

Complaints that are received by AIJS concerning an AIJS accredited institution will be handled according to the following procedures:

1. Within 10 days of receipt by AIJS, the complaint is screened to see if it has any face validity and if it is relevant to AIJS's role in accrediting and overseeing the institution.
2. If AIJS determines that the complaint does not fit into AIJS's responsibilities, the complaint will be acknowledged and replied to as being not within the purview of AIJS. As a courtesy, a copy of the complaint will be forwarded to the institution, and the case will be closed.
3. If AIJS determines that the complaint is relevant to its accreditation standards or policies and falls within AIJS's oversight responsibilities, AIJS will contact the institution and forward the complaint to the institution. AIJS will then allow 30 days

for the institution to respond to AIJS. The institution must provide, in its response to AIJS, an explanation of its actions, as well as a statement certifying that the institution followed its own published complaint policy.

4. AIJS will then review the institution's response and complaint policy.

5. If the institution informs AIJS in its response that the complainant did not follow the complaint policy of the school, AIJS will instruct the complainant to follow the complaint policy of the institution.

6. If the complainant claims to have followed the institution's published complaint policy, and the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, AIJS will make a determination as to whether or not the matter involves issues that question the institution's compliance with its own policies and/or AIJS standards or policies. AIJS will launch an inquiry into the issue within 10 days. AIJS will ask for documentation from the complainant, substantiating the complaint; and an explanation of the disposition from the institution (which should document how the institution followed its own complaint policy and procedures as well as the steps taken to resolve the complaint.)

7. Within 10 days of the receipt of these above materials, a member of the AIJS administrative staff will review the complaint file to determine if the institution complied with AIJS standards and policies. AIJS will contact the institution and allow the institution the opportunity (30 days) to review the matter and provide an explanation and/or additional information to AIJS.

8. If after receipt of the institutional response and a review of any additional documentation, AIJS makes a final determination that the institution is not in compliance with AIJS standards and/or policies, a formal corrective action plan will be required from the institution within 30 days.

9. If the response is accepted by AIJS, both the complainant and the institution will be so advised and the case will be closed.

10. If the corrective action plan is not accepted by AIJS, the matter will be placed on the agenda of the EAC to determine if an adverse action or other sanction should be initiated against the institution for noncompliance with AIJS's standards of accreditation.

11. AIJS will make a good faith effort to address credible anonymous complaints against an accredited institution or against AIJS itself and treat it in a similar manner

to a regular complaint. Obviously, there is no mechanism to respond directly to an anonymous complainant.
12. All complaints received by AIJS regarding an accredited institution will be filed and stored in an easy and accessible manner. Site visitors will be given access to the file of an institution that is being reviewed, and any complaints on file in AIJS will be considered in the final decision of the EAC.

If a written complaint is filed against AIJS directly, the complaint is recorded and acknowledged. Within 10 days of the receipt of the complaint, a member of the AIJS administrative staff will review the complaint and submit both the complaint and the review of the complaint to the Chair of the EAC to evaluate the validity of the complaint.

If the complaint is deemed justified, the EAC will instruct AIJS staff of the appropriate means to resolve the matter and will notify the complainant within 10 days of the review of the complaint. If the complainant is anonymous, no notification is necessary.

If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant may bring the matter directly to the EAC, by addressing the complaint to:

Chair of Executive Accreditation Council, AIJS
500 West Kennedy Boulevard
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2620
732.363.7330
Email: cstern@theaijs.com

<u>NY State Complaint Policy:</u>

For all types of complaints concerning colleges and universities in New York State, the first course of action must be to try to resolve the complaint directly with the administration of the college or university involved. The Office of College and University Evaluation will not review a complaint until all grievance procedures at the institution have been followed and all avenues of appeal exhausted and documentation provided that such procedures have been exhausted. Please note: Every New York State college

and university is required to establish, publish, and enforce explicit policies related to redress of grievances.

Please do not send a complaint to the Office of College and University Evaluation until you have read all of the information below. This will assure that you are sending your complaint to the appropriate agency/office.

The Office of College and University Evaluation handles only those complaints that concern educational programs or practices of degree-granting institutions subject to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, with the exceptions noted below.

- The Office does not handle anonymous complaints.
- The Office does not intervene in matters concerning an individual's grades or examination results, as these are the prerogative of the college's faculty.
- The Office does not handle complaints concerning actions that occurred more than five years ago.
- The Office does not intervene in matters that are or have been in litigation.

- Complaints concerning **programs in fields leading to professional licensure** (e.g., nursing) should be directed to:

Office of the Professions
Professional Education Program Review
Education Building, 2 West
Albany, NY 12234

- A complaint against a college in the **State University system** should be sent to:

State University of New York
Central Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, NY 12246

- A complaint against a college in the **City University system** should be sent to:

City University of New York
Office of the General Counsel
205 East 42nd Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017

- **Civil rights**: a complaint involving discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex, including sexual harassment, should be filed with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights:

Office for Civil Rights (OCR) – Enforcement Office
U.S. Department of Education
32 Old Slip, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10005–2500
Telephone: 646-428-3900
FAX: 646-428-3843
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov

Or with:
NYS Division of Human Rights
https://dhr.ny.gov/complaint

- A complaint of **consumer fraud** on the part of the institution should be directed to the Office of the New York State Attorney General, Justice Building, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223.

- For a complaint about **state student financial aid matters**, contact the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) Customer Communications Center at 1-888-NYS-HESC.

Complainants should be aware that the Office of College and University Evaluation does not conduct a judicial investigation and has no legal authority to require a college or university to comply with a complainant's request.

If your complaint does not fall into one of the exceptions noted above, click here for the Office of College and University Evaluation Complaint Form.